

Subject: Background and Policy Input of Bair Committee

The basic concept for a team of experts, such as the Bair Committee, is contained in the AEC Task Group Report^{1/} as follows:

"A team of experts should be assembled who can make and interpret field radiation and radioactivity measurements, advise on cleanup actions involving plutonium and other radionuclides, and provide necessary health physics support including protection of workers, decontamination of workers and equipment, and packaging and handling of collected contaminated materials. A Public Health Enewetak Cleanup."

During a symposium held at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory (LLL) in late June 1977, the participants - a group of concerned but unnamed engineers and scientists - questioned the AEC cleanup criteria and the method of disposal of contaminated soil. The Manager, ERDA NVOO, provided this information to the Assistant Administrator for Environment and Safety by letter 6 July 1977 which suggested that a critical review of the AEC cleanup guidance and proposed disposal method for contaminated soil be made. As a result, a group of eminent scientists met at ERDA NVOO in August 1977 with ERDA Germantown representatives and DNA representatives to review the potential problems. The general consensus was agreement in principal with what had been proposed.

As an outgrowth of this review, the Enewetak Advisory Group (Bair Committee after the appointed Chairman) was formed by ERDA, Division of Operational and Environmental Safety during the spring of 1978. The

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formation of the advisory group was of particular importance in the spring of 1978. The 1974 cleanup guidance and planning was based on the hazards of plutonium in soil. However, in 1978, the overall concern for transuranium contamination had become more significant based on EPA guidance under development for a national standard on exposures to transuranium elements in the soil. The report of one of the first advisory group meetings established in greater detail the criteria for the case-by-case cleanup where contamination concentrations were within the 40 to 400 pCi/g range.

For a complete file which shows the charter, the findings and reports of each meeting of the advisory committee, contact should be made with Dr. Bruce Wachholtz, Division of Operational and Environmental Safety, DOE. A list of appropriate references is attached, all of which should be available in FC DNA files.

References

1. Report by the AEC Task Group on Recommendations for Cleanup and Rehabilitation of Enewetak Atoll, June 19, 1974.
2. Letter Manager, ERDA NVOO to Dr. Liverman, Assistant Administrator for Environment and Safety, ERDA, dated 6 July 1977 with E closure.
3. Letter Assistant Administrator for Environment and Safety, ERDA to Dr. W.J. Bair, Manager, Biomedical and Environmental Research Program, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, dated 11 August 1977.
4. Letter AFRRI, subject: ERDA Review Panel on Enewetak Cleanup, undated.
5. Letter, ERDA, Assistant Administrator for Environment and Safety to M.G. Shedd, DDOA, DNA dated 23 August 1977.
6. HQ DNA/OALG Memo for Record, subject: Trip Report, dated 20 April 1978.
7. Letter, DOE, Division of Operational and Environmental Safety, to William J. Bair, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, et al, dated 4 April 1978.
8. Letter, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, to Hal Hollister, Division of Operational and Environmental Safety, DOE, dated 28 April 1978.

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9. Letter, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory, to Hal Hollister,
Division of Operational and Environmental Safety, DOE, dated 3 May 1978.
10. HQ AFRRI/RPC Memo for Record, subject: Trip Report to Enewetak, M.I.
with DOE Advisory Group, dated 30 August 1978.
11. DOE letter, Division of Operational and Environmental Safety,
re: DOE Advisory Group Trip to Enewetak, dated 16 October 1978.
12. Memo, Comments and Recommendations by M.I. Advisory Group as a result
of 3-4 October 1978 meeting.